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Happy Holidays!

Santa Claus

is coming to town...

By
Katharine
Stoltzfus

... and to a mall or department store near you. 'Tis the season for legions of jolly, red-suited, white-bearded men to listen to the Christmas requests of children everywhere. But there is more to playing Santa than simply ho-hoing in all the right places.

"They have to understand that they're not playing Santa, they are Santa to all these children," said Jim Souci, owner of Treasure Photo, the third largest agency supplying Santas to malls and department stores nationwide.

"Even though the Santas have seen 5,000 kids, to that one child—number 5,001—it's the first time he's seen Santa that year. Every visit is extremely important. You just can't let your guard down because it's the end of the day or the end of the season."

At the rate of one child every 45 seconds, Santas like Mike DeMuth, who is now playing Santa at the Crossroads Mall, talk to more than 500 children on an average Saturday.

According to Souci, the Santas undergo rigorous training, learning everything from getting shy children to open up to dealing with challenging behavior such as attempts to pull off their beards and glasses.

"Some kids get on my lap and when I ask them what they want, they say things like a million dollars," DeMuth said. "They'll try to trip my trigger a little bit, and I'll just say nonchalantly, 'Yes, and what else?'"

DeMuth said one of his most memorable experiences as Santa came when he spotted the children of some friends at the mall. DeMuth knew their son did not believe in Santa Claus.

"Finally he came up just to be cordial to his two younger sisters. I named him and their father and mother, and I spelled their last name which was very difficult. He walked away and told his parents that I was the real Santa Claus."

Later, as DeMuth walked through the mall in his street clothes, he saw the children again. The boy came running up to DeMuth and said, "'Uncle Mike, Uncle Mike, I saw the real Santa Claus. It's the real one. He knew my name and everything.'"

"There's so many funny stories," Souci said. "For example, many of the kids will say 'G.I. Joe, \$21.95 at Sears.' They have all of these written things, and some of them are

just a big scribbled mess and Santa says, 'Oh, that's very nice.'"

On one occasion, a child sat in DeMuth's lap and asked Santa for a present he couldn't deliver.

"He said, 'I'd like you to bring my mommy and daddy back together.'"

"I said, 'You know, there are some things in this world that Santa just can't give out, and that mommies and daddies have to take care of all by themselves. But I want you to know that this is just a mommy and daddy thing. You have nothing to do with this and they both love you very much.'"

In everyday life, DeMuth is a case manager working with therapeutic foster care children. He first applied to a newspaper want ad five years ago and has played Santa every year since.

"When my daughter who's now 7 was 3

years old, we took her to one of the local malls to see Santa," DeMuth said. "She went up and the person playing Santa was listless and had very little interaction with my child. My child got down and she seemed happy enough, but I said to myself, 'Hey, I could do a better job than that.'"

According to DeMuth, this year's top requests include Baby Alive and Barbie dolls for girls and Batman products and X-Men for boys.

DeMuth said he never promises the children will receive the toys and he always tries to accommodate both children and adults.

"There are two things I ask kids to do before they leave. I say, number one, 'Be very good to your parents, that'd be the best gift you can give them this Christmas. The other thing I want you to do is have a Merry Christmas and have fun this year.'"



Santa Claus visits with (from left) brothers Branson, 3, Alec, 2, and Michael, 6. The boys' mother is Jodi Martin.

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One per student, 25 cents each.



Seasons
Greetings
from the
Gateway
Staff.

The Gateway: We know who's been naughty or nice.

May your holiday season be bright...

By
Dave
Boryca

But not too bright.

According to a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission report, over 3,500 individuals were treated last year in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with holiday decoration-related fires.

To help make sure you enjoy a safe holiday the commission offers the following advice on purchasing and taking care of your Christmas tree and lights:

- If you bring a real tree home, keep it outside until you're ready to decorate it. Keep its base in water. When the tree is brought in, cut the butt end diagonally one or two inches above the original cut. Then place the tree in a sturdy holder with a wide base.

- Metal trees are not a fire hazard in themselves. However, they can be a serious hazard if lights are attached to the tree. Sharp edges may cut the cord insulation, the metal needles might touch an electrically charged component. Either way, the whole tree will become electrically charged, and anyone touching it and a grounded object at the same time could receive a severe shock.

- If you purchase a plastic tree, it should be made of fire-resistant material. This does not mean the tree will not burn, but only that it will not catch fire easily.

- Purchase lights that have been checked for safety. Look for the UL label of Underwriters' Laboratories.

- Any outdoor lights should be weatherproof and clearly identified as designed for outdoor use. Don't

try to use indoor lights for outdoor decorating. Remove outdoor lights as soon as the season is over; even these lights

are not designed for prolonged exposure.

- Check your lights each year before you use them. Any set that is frayed with loose connections or exposed wires should be thrown out or repaired.

The Omaha Fire Department also offered some tips in safety during the holiday season.

According to firefighter Mike Caniglia, when using Christmas lights, it is important not to use too many connections.

"You shouldn't plug in more than two sets of lights into one socket,"

Caniglia said. "And if you use an extension cord, make sure it is big enough to handle the current."

Caniglia also said that it is important to monitor the trees themselves so as not to promote danger.

"Artificial trees are always dry whereas real trees usually stay moist as long as they aren't up for a long time," Caniglia said. "No matter

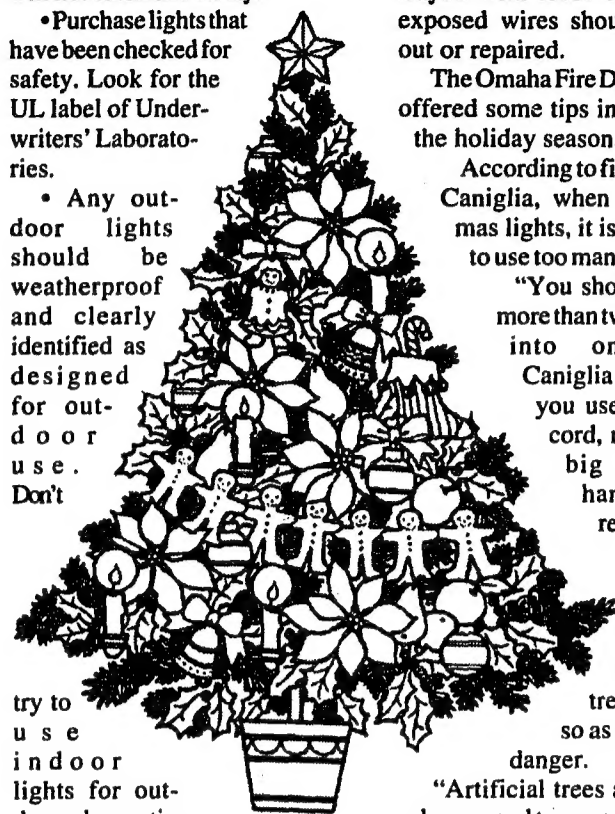
what kind of tree you have, however, you don't want to put it near a heat source such as a fireplace, and it would be a good idea to keep a big bucket of water near just in case."

According to Caniglia, most problems with fires during the winter months are caused by people using faulty furnaces or space heaters to keep warm, but carelessness with holiday decorations can be costly or even fatal.

"There's always the danger there with trees and lights if you're not careful," Caniglia said. "But it sure isn't enough to cancel Christmas for."

"No matter what kind of tree you have, however, you don't want to put it near a heat source such as a fireplace, and it would be a good idea to keep a big bucket of water near just in case."

— Mike Caniglia
Omaha Firefighter



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Once a year Christians everywhere take over shopping malls...



By Jodi
Booke

... spend countless hours baking and spend more time than usual in church.

When does this occur? You guessed it — at Christmas.

Buying, buying and more buying of everything from lights and trees to fruitcake and clothing seems to be the norm for most people who look forward to the holiday season each year.

Russell Palmer, a UNO religion professor, understands the importance of the Christmas season to businesses, whose existence often depend on shoppers at this time of year.

But, he said, "the difficulty from the Christian standpoint is that the values promoted by a kind of commercial Christmas are really the opposite of the meaning of Christmas."

"What we have in our society now I think is a combination of two things," he said. "You have the Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus, and then you have the Santa Claus festival. There is some tension between these two."

This "festival," Palmer contends, refers to the "obvious, heavy consumer orientation, and it's not exactly a fresh thought."

According to Darrel Berg, one of three UNO campus pastors, "The meaning of Christmas is still there, but it's concealed beneath layers of artificiality."

Berg thinks people should "focus on being with people rather than buying."

Berg tries to emphasize this idea within his own family.

"Because I'm a minister, our Christmas has always revolved around the church," he said. This includes communion and Sunday school programs during advent leading up to Christmas.

Attending church, usually on Christmas Eve, is a traditional part of the Christian Christmas. Another tradition, of course, is the giving of gifts.

Some families choose to open presents Christmas Eve, while others prefer waiting until morning.

UNO freshman Amanda Lang said her family has always opened presents Christmas morning. She added, "I think people who open them Christmas Eve should be shot!"

One reason for Lang's, as well as many others' feelings may lie within the tradition of Santa Claus, who is said to deliver presents at night while everyone is sleeping.

According to Palmer, Santa Claus, as well as "much of what we think of as a modern celebration of Christmas is fairly recent in terms of history."

He added that the poem "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" and the image of "Santa Claus with his red suit came about in the early 1800s, which is fairly late in terms of Christian history."

This modernizing of Christmas may be steering Christmas away from its purpose — a celebration of the birth of Christ.

"I've sometimes thought," Palmer said, "that Christians would be better off celebrating the birth of Jesus in the middle of July. Then it wouldn't have to compete with the presents."

"Gift giving is important," Berg said, "but sometimes our intentions are artificial. I'd like to

see us all focus more on the relational aspects of Christmas."

Most people, when thinking of Christmas, forget their hearts for their stomachs. Good food, and lots of it, is a big part of the holiday tradition. The food varies greatly from family to family.

Berg said his family has always celebrated Christmas Eve in church. "Then we'd come home and have oyster stew."

While Lang's mother, coming from England, always serves tea and trifles as they open their Christmas gifts.

UNO junior Eric Schlingman's family, he said, "has a turkey each year, with all the trimmings." These trimmings include mashed potatoes and gravy, cranberries, stuffing and much more.

Other traditions are celebrated among individual families.

"That's the great part," Berg said, "You can make your own traditions."

Palmer's family tries to "preserve some sense of Christ" at Christmas time. "We have an advent wreath that we light every year, we like to sing Christmas carols."

But, he admitted, "We, like everybody else, are caught up in the glitz and glitter of the season. It's just a matter of trying to remember what the real meaning is."

It seems he's popping up everywhere lately...

He's on street corners and in shopping malls. His image is imprinted on every child's mind.

No, it's not Barney. It's Santa Claus.

Just how did this rosy-cheeked, big-bellied, jolly, old man come to represent Christmas?

UNO religion professor Russell Palmer admitted he's no expert on the legend of Santa Claus, but offered his knowledge.

"The figure of Saint Nicholas was apparently a Christian holy man," Palmer said, "and he was kind to the poor." Thus the beginning of gift giving.

Campus pastor Darrel Berg remembered explaining the myth of Santa Claus to his four children, who are now grown.

"I told them that he stands for the love that's in the hearts of human beings."

No matter what kids believe Saint Nicholas represents, one thing is inevitable — they always find out the truth.

"We never hid the truth from our kids," Berg said. "When they started to question, we let them discover for themselves."

Not all children find out about Santa on their own. Many are told by older siblings, like UNO freshman Amanda Lang.

"I remember when my sister told me," she said. "I was 8 years old. I was devastated at the time."

Craig McCallie, a UNO junior, refused to tell the age that he found out about Santa.

Instead, he asked, "What are you talking about?"

McCallie may joke about still believing in Santa Claus, but many grown people find reasons for still believing. After all, what is Santa Claus, besides a chubby, white-bearded man emblazoned in a bright red suit?

Lang feels that Santa Claus "is a symbol of holiday spirit ... peace and goodwill toward men and all that good stuff."

If that's what Santa is about, then what's wrong with believing?

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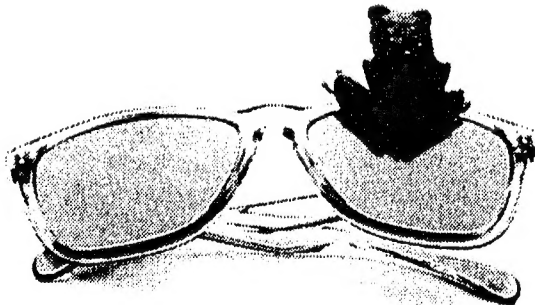
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Cheerful holiday scenes grace the covers of cards...

... with the artistic touch of pediatric patients at the University of Nebraska Medical Center. The cards have been created to add a special meaning to holiday greetings.

Five designs, created by oncology patients ranging from 8 to 15 years old, were selected from approximately 24 contest entries. Three artists are from Nebraska, two residing in Omaha and one in Aurora. The other artists are from Topeka, Kan., and Wakeman, Ohio. The cards are being sold by the University Hospital Auxiliary to benefit pediatric patients, according to Karla Pirruccello, chairman of the "Portraits of Hope" project.

"I think the kids really enjoy participating and they get a lot of gratification," Pirruccello said. "I know some of the kids whose cards were selected were very proud of themselves. It's a special event for them and serves them some nice recognition."

Pirruccello said the idea for the holiday cards was fashioned after a children's hospital in Texas which has been producing

cards for several years.

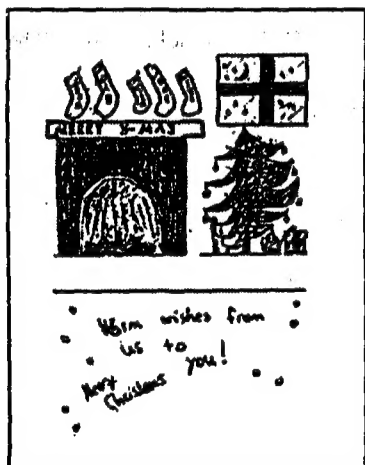
"This is the first year (for producing the cards), and it was kind of a pilot project," she said. "We'd like to do it every year and to become more visible and more widely known."

Pirruccello said she hopes the cards will be more widely distributed and be more accessible to the community in the future.

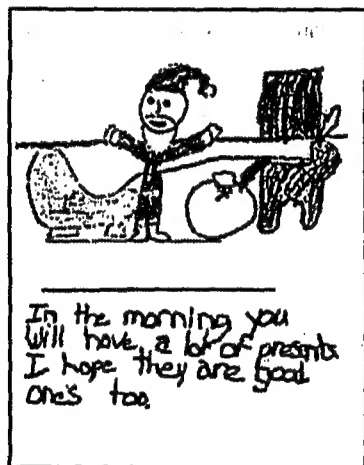
"I think the cards are attractive, and people like to support or have their money go towards something other than Hallmark or Dillards or whatever," Pirruccello said. "This money actually goes to help something in their own community."

According to Pirruccello, card sales have been successful with only about 200 of the 1,000 packages remaining. Funding to print the cards was provided by ConAgra, the Alan and Marcia Baer Foundation and the Omaha law firm of Gaines, Mullen, Pansing and Hogan.

Each box costs \$10 and contains 20 cards, with four of each of the five designs. The cards are presently available at Cornerstone Gifts, located in the Outpatient Care Center gift shop at the Med Center; at the auxiliary's Holiday Happenings Boutique; and at the Artists Cooperative Gallery.



Designed by Travis, 15,
from Aurora, Neb.



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Omaha Neb.

By
Andrew Bauer

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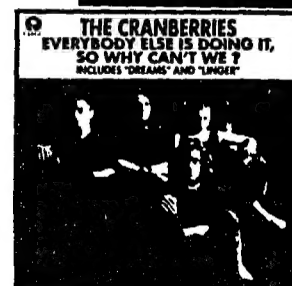


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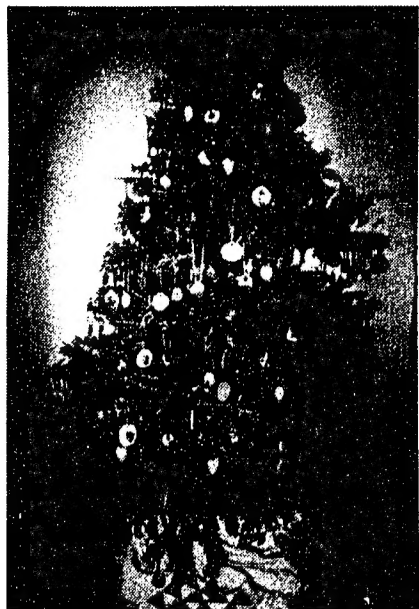


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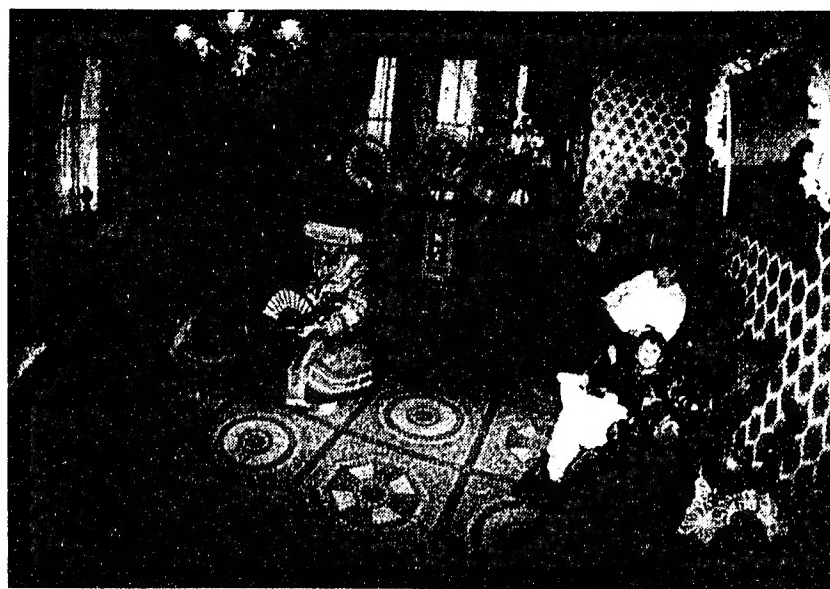
*Photos by
Ed Carlson*



Czechoslovakia



England

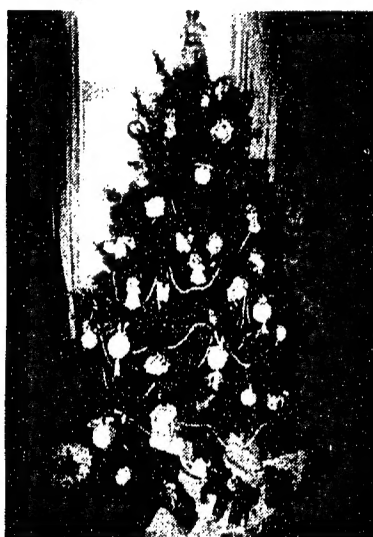


The Crook House is celebrating the holiday season with "Holiday Happenings" through first week in January. A particular ethnic group and their holiday customs will be featured each Sunday. This Sunday will feature Jewish and Czech holidays.

Christmas Around the Globe



America, Late 1700s



America, 1800s



Early American Frontier

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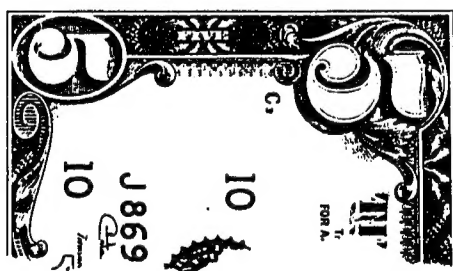
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3. In the Cashiering office drop box over the weekend of December 11-12th. Payment must be in the drop box by 7:30 AM on December 13th.

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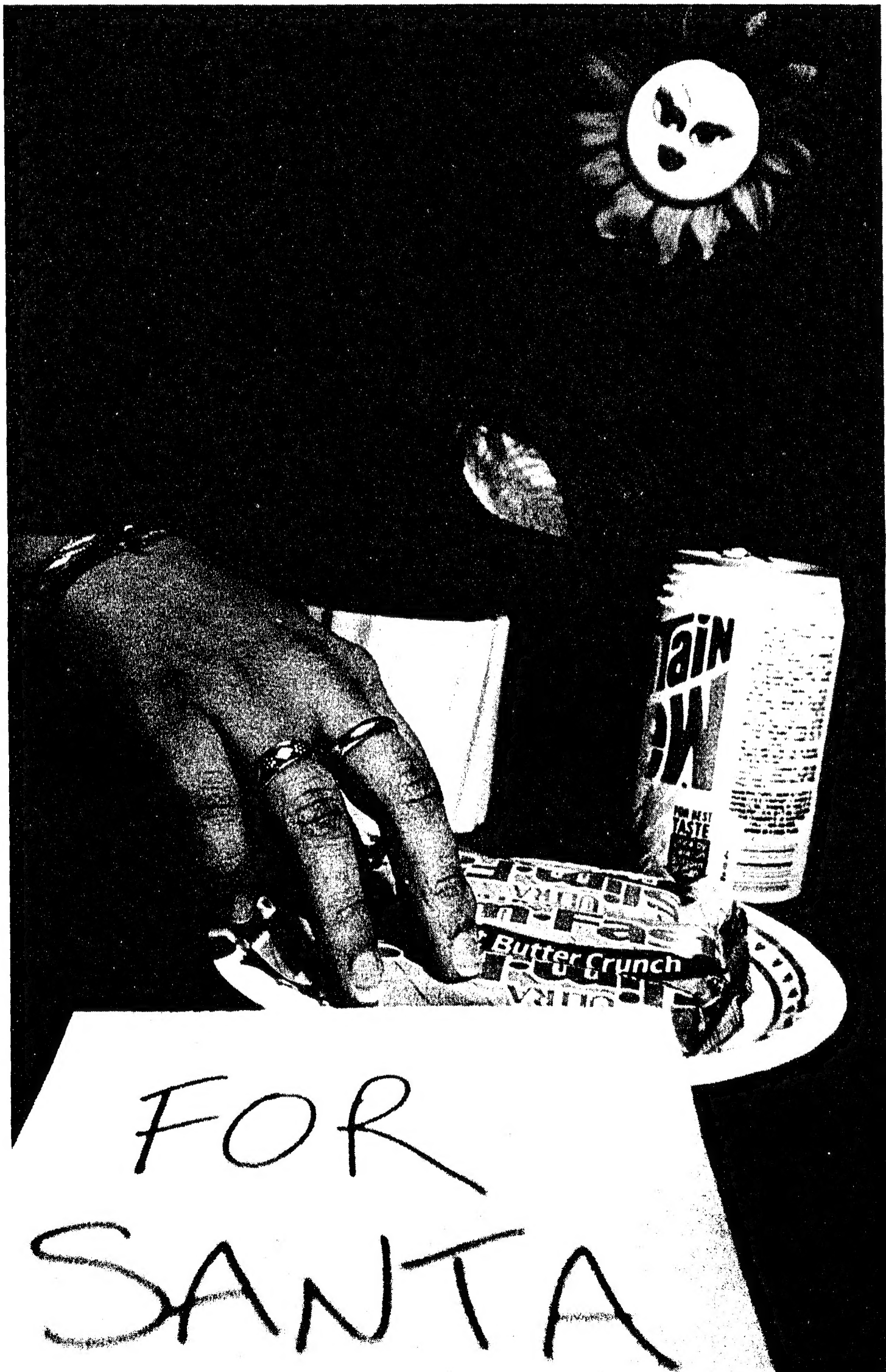
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SONIC LEAVES

THE GATEWAY'S GUIDE TO ENTERTAINMENT



A Very Fedora Christmas

Madame Fedora Lerrim waxes nostalgic on her Thanksgiving experience and ponders the Christmas holiday.

See Santa, Page 3

'Mrs. Doubtfire' an Unforgettable Movie



Robin Williams (left) plays a man willing to do anything to be with his children, even if it means playing soccer in a skirt as Mrs. Doubtfire (right) with his son Chris, played by Matthew Lawrence.

Comedy Pulls at The Heart Strings

Daniel and Miranda Hillard had been married for 14 years. That all ended when Daniel brought home Bob's Mobile Petting Zoo for their son's 12th birthday.

Trying desperately to still see his children on a daily basis, he invents the perfect nanny. "Mrs. Doubtfire," played by hair, funny man Robin Williams, leads a double life as Daniel Hillard and Mrs. Doubtfire.

Directed by Chris Columbus, the film depicts a realistic view on divorce and alternative families.

Columbus fine tuned the part of Miranda for Sally Field, and could not have made a better choice than asking Williams to play

the lead in this comedy.

The film is filled with hilarious dialogue, and Williams' transition from Daniel Hillard offers the brightest moments in the movie. From false breasts to false teeth, Williams' transition is thor-



ough and convincing.

The film traces his movements outside the house as Hillard and within the household as Mrs. Doubtfire. He finds the juggling act between roles to be taxing as Miranda begins dating again. The new man of her affection, Stuart, played by Pierce Brosnan, finds himself being flicked off,

sneered at, and at one point, poisoned by a the seemingly peaceful old woman Doubtfire.

The movie is overflowing with laughs and tugs at your heart. It is well written, but at times it becomes a bit annoying with an overload of feminine jokes. However, the performances were wonderful from all the actors.

Also adding his talent to the movie was Harvey Fierstein as Uncle Frank.

"Mrs. Doubtfire" is definitely the best comedy of the season, and is perfect for any audience. It discusses divorce in a realistic manner that is sensitive to a child's emotions. It speaks with clarity and humor.

It also deals with parents accepting the added responsibility of a divorce and the strain of maintaining a stable family.

"Mrs. Doubtfire" promises to be one of those movies that you will never forget, and will enjoy time after time.

Poor Characters Permeate Movie

'Piano' Lacking in Likeability

You just can't find a good love story anymore.



Just ask Ada (played by Holly Hunter), the central character in Jane Campion's new film "The Piano."

Ada, who is mute, travels from Scotland in 1852 to latch up with her mail-order husband in New Zealand. She sails across the ocean in a rickety canoe with her 9-year-old daughter (Anna Paquin) and a piano, her only outlet for communication, in tow.

When she finally reaches the shore and her new husband, Stewart (played by Sam Neill), it's not exactly love at first sight.

Ada, her face pale and emaciated, is not a sight for sore eyes. She looks like a corpse throughout the film, and her emotion level doesn't raise much higher than that of someone 6 feet under.

The couple's first conflict is encountered within minutes of their new relationship, as Ada's mate refuses to take her prized piano to their home in the jungle because it's too heavy. Ada's struggle to retrieve the piano makes up the plot of the film.

She finally enlists the help of neighborhood neanderthal George Baines (Harvey Keitel), who takes her to the beach. Baines is just about as colorful a character as Ada, and his vocabulary is limited to an occasional grunt or a sexually suggestive phrase.

Baines eventually decides to take the piano for himself, requiring that Ada pay him for it, piano key by piano key, in sexual favors.

The bulk of the film is comprised of Baines parading around naked (he even dusts the piano in the buff), and Ada rushing off into the

woods to be with the unclothed one.

Ada's husband even partakes in the fun, as he views the twosome through a crack in the floorboard.

By the end of the film, Campion wants to paint a picture of the true chemistry and love between Ada and Baines, a love that can end Ada's silence. But with her frigid behavior and his lack of depth, this twosome generates as much chemistry as Kermit and Miss Piggy.

Another bad note in "The Piano" is the feeble attempt to shove symbolism down the throat of the viewer. Since Ada can't speak, her communication revolves around her hands. When her husband decides to punish her for her affair, he chops off one of her fingers. And when Ada decides she's in love with Baines, she sends him a love message written on, you guessed it, a piano key.

Despite its recognition at the Cannes Film Festival earlier this year, a lack of substance and likable characters makes "The Piano" a film that can't strike a favorable chord.

Jam Nation Best Of the Year

Jam Nation is not actually a group; it's really a temporary music collective organized by Peter Gabriel's Real World label.

The purpose is showing off the mighty production skills of dancemasters Mark Rutherford and Sugar J.

Musicians were brought in from all over the world for this one-shot experiment, and with talent as diverse as that of reggae star Lucky Dube, quirky popster Jane Siberry and ambient guru Daniel Lanois, the results are more cohesive and compelling than you'd have



any right to expect.

Check out "Sleeping," by African Singer Ayub Ogada. The bass is an insistent rumble, while the drum parts trip funkily along the top and Ogada's voice pleads and cajoles winningly. The tune moves immediately into a gratifying crunchy instrumental coda titled, appropriately enough, "Awakening."

Even better is the Celtic/African fusion of the classic Irish ballad "She Moved Through the Fair," which features the ethereal vocals of cellist Caroline Lavell. Best of all is Jane Siberry's wispy and almost thoroughly incomprehensible "Harmonix."

Inevitably with an album of this scope, there are some dead spots. "Sunstroke" is rhythmically boring and lyrically subpar, while Cleo Torres' "Prehistoric Pubescent Grand Prix" takes the prize for most facile lyrics of the year. Monstrous grooves save that track, luckily.

Don't let the occasional dull beats and sophomoric sentiment scare you off. This is probably the most interesting dance record you'll hear this year.

Meat a Sign of Affection for Some

I couldn't make it home to Belgium for Thanksgiving, so Big Al, a deli manager at the local grocery store, invited me over to his house for the festivities.

At first I was frightened by his offer, as I feared that going to his house and meeting his parents might mean I was headed toward a commitment.

Big Al assured me the dinner was by no means a threat. He told me that although he is well into his 30s, he chooses to live with his parents because the rent is cheap, and since they let him have the basement for his living quarters, it was just like having his own "pad."

"Sometimes a guy needs his space, man," Big Al said. "If I bring home a gal or want to just clear my head, I go up to the attic."

Big Al assured me there would be no attic in our future, just a large meat product with all of the trimmings.

Besides, Big Al always follows the same courtship ritual. When he first meets a girl, he sends her a pound of sliced ham just to show he's interested. After a week, if you're really on his mind, a can of spam and a tub of coleslaw is delivered to your door.

If he gets into the rump roasts, you're really in trouble.

Big Al and I never got that far. He stopped

somewhere in the middle with me, giving me a smoked salami and an apron with a cow on it.

Anyway, Big Al, his parents and I had an enjoyable Thanksgiving. After a bountiful meal, we all sat in front of the piano and played show tunes. They made up their own words to the theme of "SWAT," while Big Al's dad ran around the house dodging imaginary bullets.

When I led the group to a rousing version of the theme to "Beverly Hills, 90210," Big Al's mother puckered her lips together and pretended she was Shannen Doherty.

During all of the mayhem, Big Al just sat on the piano bench and stared blankly at the floor. The holidays must be hard for guys like Big Al, I thought. He's probably upset because he knows I can never be his little pork cutlet. He's probably lonely. He's probably scared. He's —

"Golly darn, guys," he finally shouted. "For the life of me, I can't remember the theme song to 'Grape Ape.'"

Oh, that Big Al. If Belgium weren't calling my name, I would probably spend Christmas with the lug.

But that's enough about the holidays. Let's pull up a toadstool and read what you have to say in Madame's Mailbag:



Dear Madame:

I'm all for this '70s revival and all, but things are getting too crazy.

We've got a guy from the "Love Boat" on Capitol Hill, and even David Cassidy is getting

back together with his creepy brother Shaun for a reunion tour.

All of this may be bearable, but the latest developments have gone too far. Yesterday, my mom told me that Congress passed a Brady Bill.

I can handle Gopher being in Washington, but I don't want Greg and Peter running my life.

I say we add an amendment to this bill outlawing all Brady males with perms from running this country. That would take care of all of them. Except for maybe Tiger. I don't

think I trust him, either. I saw what he did to Mrs. Beasley.

Do something, Madame.

Signed,

A Concerned Woman of the '80s

Dear '80s:

I think you'd better slide your feet aside and get off of your soapbox. You act like your decade was any less shameful than that of your forefathers.

When's the last time you sat in front of your TV watching Solid Gold, playing with a Rubik's Cube and drinking a big glass of the new improved Coke?

I hope David Hasselhoff visits you in your sleep tonight.

Well, that's it for me this week. I'm off to the library to get some studying in before finals week. Bwah, bwah, bwah. No, seriously, I have one message to the big-haired biker that sits in front of me in Geology class: Get that mop cut off, I can't read half of your answers!

Until next time, I leave you with this thought:

Eat these words, my children. For next week is the last Fedora column. Ever!

Digayvu?

Ralph E. Sullivan
Agent

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'Eat at Godot's' Not Regular Fare

According to the liner notes, *Eat At Godot's* is more than just an album, it's an "Existential Barbecue." The album is also the first solo project for Chicago singer/songwriter Ralph Covert.

MUSIC

review by eric johnson

Covert's usual role as frontman for The Bad Examples was set aside for this effort. According to Covert, some of his material just doesn't quite fit the band.

"I try to stretch the band as much as possible," he said in a press release. "This album has some of the darkest songs and some of the most hope-filled songs I've ever written."

The album is a return to the acoustic music Covert was performing before forming the band. It is also a precise snapshot of where he has been in his life. There is even a short story written by the singer explaining where he got the guitar he used on the album.

The underlying theme of *Godot's* seems to be in the music. "Then we were young and foolish. Now we're older, but still fools." This collection of rambling songs and string-backed ballads digs deep into Covert's past. The jazz feel of "Wild Young Things" and the slow ballad "Anna Brigaux" are about relationships that didn't work out.

"Any Twisted Thing" has already gone full circle. What started as a subdued acous-

tic track has become a full out rocker in the regular band set. The band steps in with Pat Brennan on the track "Believe In Miracles," which has a spiritual blues feeling. Covert explores the blues even further with the Delta blues-inspired "Groupie Blues." Examples guitarist John Duich lends a slide guitar solo that was recorded onto acetate and aged, giving it a scratchy record sound. The whole track would have sounded great this way.

Covert seems to age a little, as well as unload some emotional baggage on this album. These songs are much more introspective and detailed than those he has brought to the band.

"I needed to start recharging and refueling myself as an artist," Covert said. "This next stage of my career should be a real explosion, and I wanted to be refocused and ready for the challenge."

In a way, *Godot's* is a grand experiment for Covert both musically and lyrically. Each song seems to have its own feel. The harmonica in "Calico Kid" is a world away from the Brazilian guitar of "Small Grey Rain."

Covert's album is as much as a listening experience as it is a life experience. Each track can be taken on its own as a whole. Some of the tracks like "Autumn In New Mexico" and "Dance In The Crossfire" get tedious after so many slow numbers.

Eat At Godot's certainly isn't the regular pop fare that Covert offers in The Bad Examples, but it could be an important effort. The exploration on this album could easily add a new element to the band's already distinctive sound. It could also give Covert a step up in his songwriting career.



Bad Example's frontman Ralph Covert tests his own ideas with *Eat at Godot's*.

Big Country Back Again

It's never been an easy road for one-hit wonders in the music business. Especially for a band that has gone virtually silent for five years.

Such is the case of Big Country. Like X, they never broke up, they just took a little time off. Now, with a new album and attitude, they are once again touring North America.

MUSIC

review by eric johnson

Big Country made its small mark in the mid-'80s with the single "In A Big Country." The strength of that song made their album *The Crossing* gold, and yielded the band two Grammy nominations. The band's second single, "In Fields of Fire," kept its momentum going, but wasn't overly successful. The next Big Country album featured the single "Look Away," which was enough to keep the band fresh in the American mind, yet the third album fizzled.

Now, five years later, Big Country has begun a comeback in the form of *The Buffalo Skinners*. This album was released by Fox Records, which is a tiny subsidiary of Chrysalis Records, and it's giving the band a new outlook on life. Behind the momentum of the first single, "The One I Love," Big Country have returned to America.

Their tour brought them to Omaha on Nov. 23, which was the first bitterly cold night in the area. That, combined with slick roads, resulted in a small turnout for the Ranch Bowl show. It wasn't enough, however, to deter a group of ticket winners from the Lincoln area.

Things got off to a fast start with "All Go Together," and that set the mood for a segment full of new material. Big Country's new sound is heavier and a little more aggressive than the band's past, but they've still retained the catchy

guitar solos and lyrics that were a part of the band's original sound. "We're Not In Kansas" followed up with an inquisitive look at American culture and worked into "Look Away."

Vocalist and guitarist Stuart Adamson started off kind of shy, but got his courage up as the set went on. Between songs, he talked about the corruption and over-taxation of government, which didn't get much of a reaction from the small crowd. Much of that is reflected in the band's new songs, like "What Are You Working For" and "Chester's Farm."

The set slowed down with the dream world of "Pink Marshmallow Moon" and the memorable "Ships," then picked back up slowly with "Long Way Home." One of the most striking songs in the set and on the album is "Alone." It is a simple song about depression, but the chorus rings true in every aspect of loneliness.

Guitarist Bruce Watson did a good job filling in rhythms and solos, but he was overpowered by Adamson. At times, it sounded like the band was only a three piece because the guitars were mixed unevenly. Adamson's solos were full of reverb, which bridged the gap between the two guitars.

Big Country finished up with "The One I Love" before heading into its hit, "In A Big Country." With that song, the small crowd reacted and filled in the sparse dance floor. The band then returned for an encore of "Fields Of Fire."

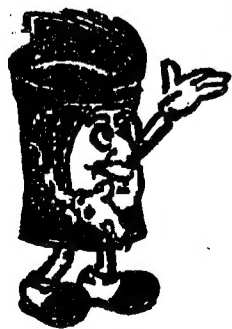
It will take a lot of work and luck to put Big Country back on top of the American pop charts, but the band has got a good start. *The Buffalo Skinners* is the comeback album of the year, bettering Meatloaf. The pity of it all is that commercial radio will not tap into a third of this album's potential. College radio, on the other hand, has already done its share, but it wasn't enough for anyone to take notice. It's now up to the band to keep playing shows to win back its audience.

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'My Life' Capitalizes on Emotion

From the same people who brought us "Ghost" and "Jacob's Ladder" comes another weep-fest dedicated to director and screenwriter Bruce Joel Rubin's favorite theme: death.

CINEMA

review by Katharine Stoltzfus

In "My Life," Bob Jones (Michael Keaton) is a successful public relations executive who seems to have it all: a great job, lots of money, a beautiful wife (Nicole Kidman) and a little Bob Jr. on the way. A funny thing happens on the way to yuppie heaven; Bob's carefully constructed life comes crashing down around him after he is diagnosed with inoperable cancer.

With only a few months to live, Bob decides to hire a film student to videotape a sort of autobiography for his unborn child.

While watching the footage, Bob is stung by a colleague's remark that he is superficial and leading "an unexamined life." Bob fires the student and takes on the job himself, providing some much-needed comic relief to what is a truly depressing story. What Bob learns about himself in the process drives most of the movie.

And what Bob learns is none too pretty. Besides being superficial, Bob has plenty of other problems. A Chinese healer (wonderfully played by Haing S. Ngor of "The Killing Fields") tells Bob that he is a very angry man who has made himself sick by repressing his emotions.

Bob is also good at holding a grudge. He is voluntarily estranged from his working class family who he feels never understood him or his dreams. His wife tells him he is uncommunicative and selfish when he won't share his feelings with her.

As if dealing with death was not enough, Bob turns out to be a very messed up guy. The videotapes begin to double as therapy as Bob deals with his problems one by one.

With such a promising premise, it is disappointing to see the film go steadily downhill in the second half, degenerating into mushy sentimentalism. Bob overcomes fear and rides a roller coaster for the first time (can you say obvious metaphor?), reunites with his family and makes the brilliant observation, "Dying is a really hard way to learn about living."

"My Life" has some funny moments and some genuine emotion (mostly thanks to a convincing performance by

Keaton), but not enough of either to carry the film. Such a dark subject needs humor to cut the tension, but "My Life" delivers only a few good laughs. The film is much too heavy handed and manipulative towards the end — it seems to be constantly crying out "Hey, this guy is DYING!"

The movie really lapses into melodramatic TV movie-of-the-week mode in back to back scenes during the last 20 minutes. Every moment is milked for its potential sob factor.

Bob and the father he never got along with exchange "I love you" for the first time as dad gives an almost dead Bob

a shave. Bob's family wheels an incapacitated Bob out to his backyard where they've hired a three ring circus to perform to a one-man audience, fulfilling one of Bob's lifelong fantasies. Bob reads "Green Eggs and Ham" to his child via videotape while his son points and babbles "Daddy."

It's just too much.

Bring a hanky to "My Life." It will almost certainly make you cry. It may also leave you feeling as used as a crumpled up tissue.



Pacino in a Role You Thought You'd Never See Him Play

Al Pacino is back as (surprise!) a mobster in "Carlito's Way." Once powerful Carlito Brigante (Pacino, right) celebrates his early release from prison with his friend and attorney, Dave Kleinfeld (Sean Penn).

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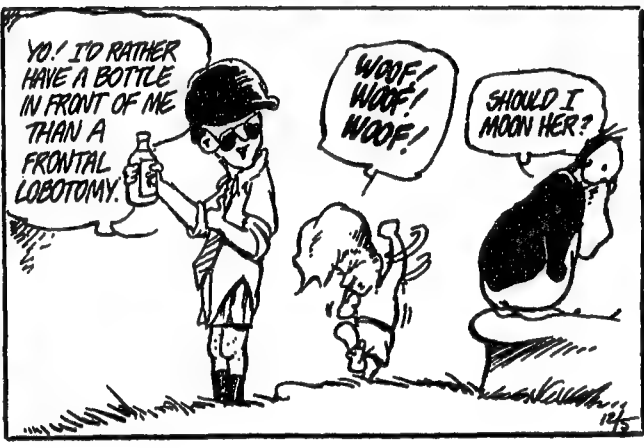
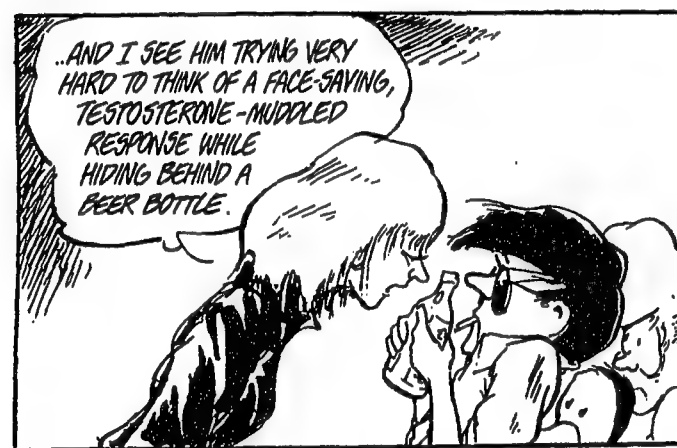
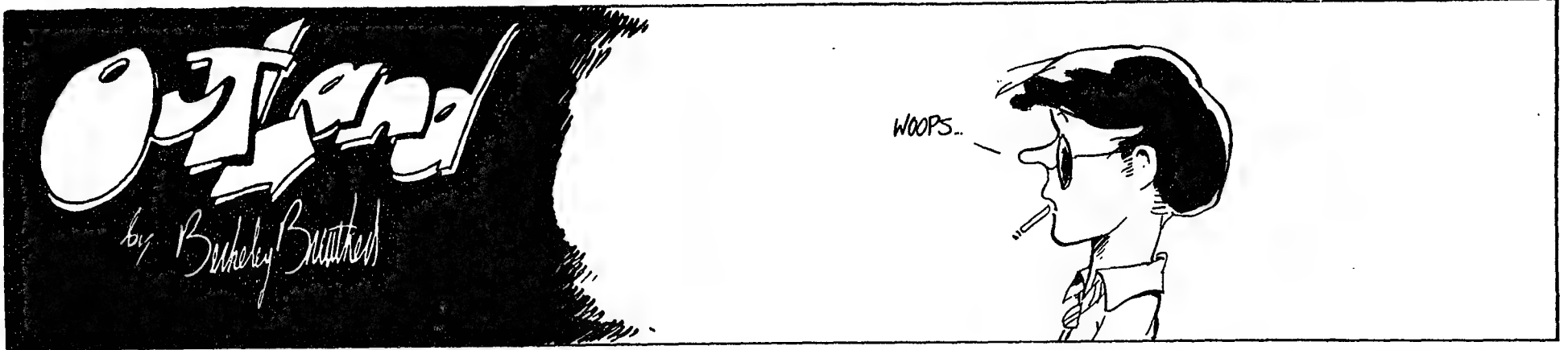
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DAVID CASTLOW, CHAIRMAN OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SMOKING

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Your Real Horoscope



Aries: (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) Be frank in your relationships, because Frank is a great guy, and you're a weasel-faced jerk.

Taurus: (Apr. 20-May 20) You quit your dentistry job to become a poet, but find that all you can write are limericks about flossing and ugly tartar.

Gemini: (May 21-June 21) A game of musical chairs will turn tragic when a poor loser shatters the "Pop Goes the Weasel" record, and shoves a large shard into your spine.

Cancer: (June 22-July 22) Don't underestimate the power of a good cry in its ability to make you look like a sissy.

Leo: (July 23-Aug. 22) The stars are kind to you this week. They will make you delicious cock-tails and rub your sore shoulder.

Virgo: (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) When a group of young punks calls you "Egghead," display your maturity by ignoring them. They set you on fire anyway.

Libra: (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) If your

romantic life needs picking up, perhaps you should stop raving about kiddie porn.

Scorpio: (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) As you go down that long, winding, rocky road that is life, go to the bathroom as much as humanly possible.

Sagittarius: (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll make a disparaging remark about hair care in the wrong bar, and Vidal Sassoon will break your nose.

Capricorn: (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) While attempting to sample Grandma's stew, she'll hit you on the back, causing the ladle to lodge in your larynx.

Aquarius: (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) All the fame and fortune you desire will be yours if you can overcome your fear of Muppets.

Pisces: (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) The stars say you'll learn the true meaning of friendship when a clown kicks you in the stomach, causing you to pee blood.

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Wild Kingdom

By Anthony Rubio, Jr.

"We are having more fun than humans should be allowed to have." —David Letterman

ASK MR. COLLEGE

Don't just sit there and READ it! Write to Mr. College TODAY!

Q. Dear Mr. College: With all the late night talk shows on, I never know which one to watch. You seem like a TV kind of guy. Any suggestions?—Couch Tatter, Atlanta, GA

A. Dear Couch: I seem like a "TV kind of guy"? I exactly **WHAT** is **THAT** supposed to mean? Are you insinuating that because I happen to be the country's leading Brady Bunch expert, that I'm obsessed with television? I are you saying that I sit in front of the TV day after day, night after night—moving, only to scratch myself, as I mindlessly flip from channel to channel watching everything from "Donahue" to "90210"? Are you implying that I get sexually aroused when the shopping network comes on, and that I go for weeks without bathing so I don't miss an instant of my favorite soap operas? **YOU HAVE TO KEEP UP WITH THOSE SOAPS OR YOU WON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON THE NEXT DAY, NOW WILL YOU?** IS THAT MY FAULT? Are you saying that it **WASN'T** worth selling my wife's engagement ring so I could buy the new, big screen, Sony 6000 SL, with sensoround digital stereo, and color enhancement? **COLOR ENHANCEMENT DAMN IT! COLORRR ENHAAANCEMENT!!! COLOR ENHA...uh, eh.** Whew! Thanks, I needed that. I have to go now. Oprah's on.

Q. Dear Mr. College: Sometimes I get the urge to take off all my clothes, go down to the registrars office, light it on fire, and scream obscenities while I watch it burn. Is that wrong?—Pete S., Madison, WI

A. Dear Pete: I don't think I have to be the one to tell you that's wrong, now do I Pete? I think you know damn well that you're liable to catch a cold doing all that without any clothes on.

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'Ireland' Tracks Leave You Ready For More

**Straight Outta Ireland Vol. II
Various Artists**

Scotti Bros. Records' second compilation of Irish alternative rock, like its predecessor, offers up a healthy dose of variety. Immediately recognizable are two

of the featured bands — An Emotional Fish and Hothouse Flowers — from the state-side college charts. The other seven bands on the release were pleasantly unknown.

Though not a stylistically designed compilation, the atmo-

sphere orbits around the floaty groove typical of "college-rock" straying into light techno on "I'm In Love With Mother Earth" by Zrazy. This is followed by a country-reminiscent on Hothouse Flowers' "Same Song." The same Hothouse Flowers that *Rolling Stone* once called the "best unsigned band in the world."

The general feel of the disc is mellowness, warm and conducive to a smooth world view. The vocals on every song are impressive. If you listen rather closely, you can honestly say, "Hey, he sounds like Bono there."

Hey! Bono's a good singer. So is Sinéad. Whatever it is with these Irish folk, it's easy to like it.

An Emotional Fish's singer pulls off the Bono-sound most effectively with his work on their ditty "That Girl and the Slow Train," the first song on the CD. It's got a "come-on-everybody-hear-my-tale" sound to it. Engaging, but done too often. It loses itself in samey-ness. The second song makes up for it, however. "Icicle Falls," by Candy Apple Red, flings you head all a-goggle into positive notions for the endurance of life. It's simply a good song with a pleasantly brisk pace.

The Coletrane's contribution, "She's Got the Face", is one of those lonely lamenting celebratory songs. It's spiced with a very subtle Old

Irish sound, coming through in the twingy-twang of the guitars and even in the structure of the song.

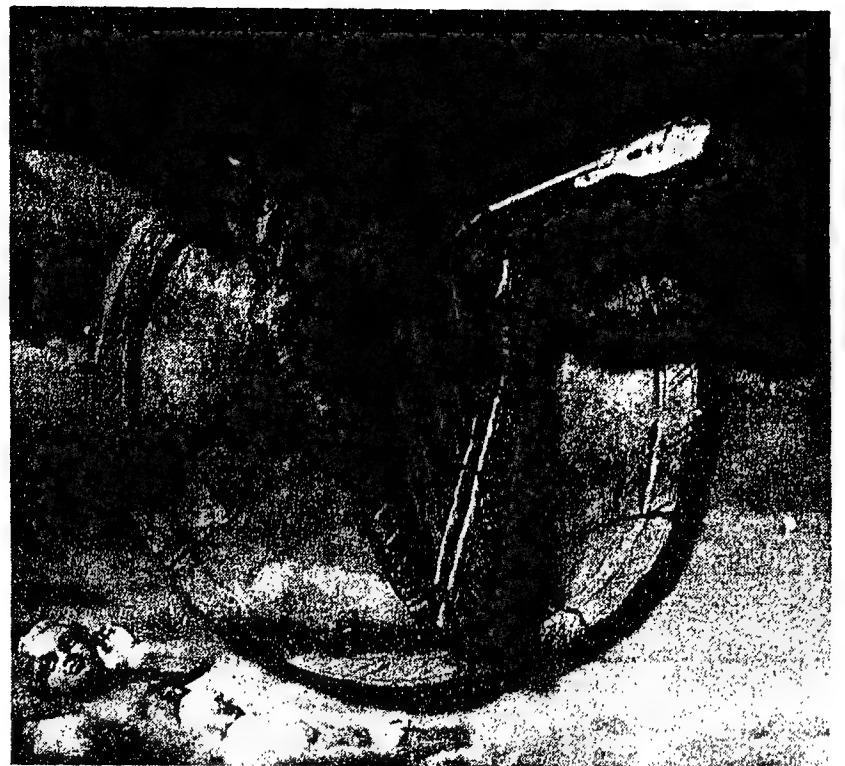
"My World" by Peach cascades us with a positive and smiley attitude. Catchy vocal stylings and a kind of light "yeah yeah" aura to the whole thing. Peach is the only unsigned band to ever be nominated for the Smithwicks *Hot Press* Young Band of the Year award.

Zrazy's "I'm In Love with Mother Nature" mixes organic pipe-music with drum machines and hippy-lyrics. Zrazy is Maria Walsh and Carole Nelson, and their unique interaction produces a kind of contemporary dance folk sound. The finale of the song features a single voice crooning some traditional Irish mouth music.

By far, the most interesting song on the disc is "Super Weirdo" by Sack. Shimmying around processed vocals and odd vocal ranges, the song seems to be an ode to oddity, throwing in a verse from the Sesame Street "These Are the People In Your Neighborhood" song. It's kind of a punk/new-wave thing ... and being a '80s-child, that's the kinda stuff that gets you all teary-eyed and rebellious.

How representational *Straight Outta Ireland II* is of Irish bands is a mystery, but it gets your ears perking for more.

review by
ed stastny



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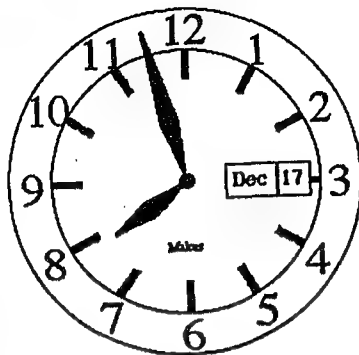
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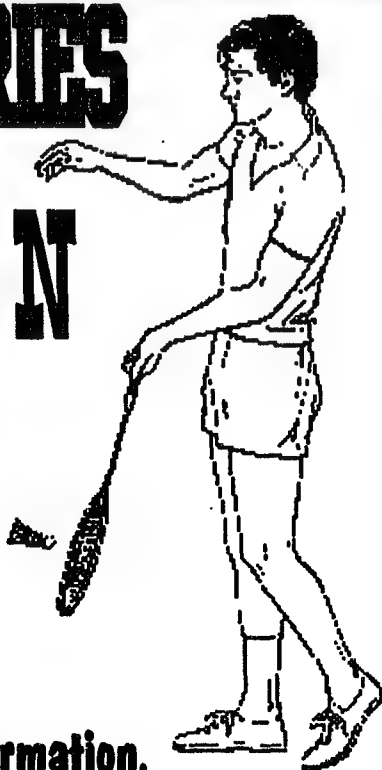
Winter Park, Wisconsin

HOW TO ... SERIES BADMINTON

Tuesday, December 7th
3:30 - 5:00 pm
HPER 114 East

FREE!!!

Call 554-2539 for more information.

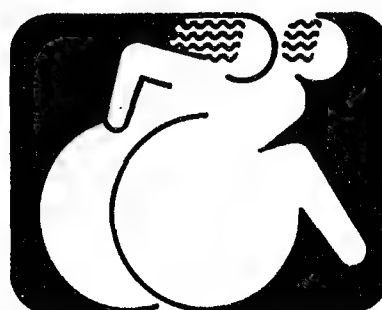


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Open to persons
with or without
disabilities.
Sport Wheelchairs
will be available
for use.

Call 554-2539 for
more information.

While December brings visions of sugar plums dancing in to the minds of many Americans...

*By Veronica
Burgher*

... the international students at UNO bring with them many different traditions and interesting customs.

There are 410 international students at UNO according to a pamphlet provided by the International Student Center (ISS).

Japan has the most students with 51, and the Republic of Korea has 34. There are eight students from the former Soviet Union, nine from Pakistan and 11 from Thailand. Argentina, Bangladesh, Czechoslovakia and Kenya are part of a long list of countries that have students at UNO.

Sharon Emery, international student adviser for the ISS, said the American Christmas traditions seem somewhat odd to international students, particularly those who don't celebrate the holiday in their own country. ISS is trying to do more to educate the UNO student body on international holidays and customs in other countries.

Arturo, a student from Mexico, said the winter break is a time for his family living here to go back to Mexico for Christmas and get together as a large extended family. The holiday begins on Dec. 12 when large groups of family and friends invite one another over to eat.

"It's not like here in America where you give me a gift, I give you a gift," Arturo said. "It's a big celebration every day. You go to everyone's house and eat. You gain at least 10 pounds."

Norma, a Muslim from Afghanistan, doesn't celebrate Christmas, but said that in her religion it is a time for families. Her whole family came to America from Afghanistan 10 years ago, and they use the break to spend time together.

According to Norma, the Islamic religion recognizes all prophets, including Jesus as important, but they don't see Jesus as the son of God.

A Christmas in Bolivia, according to a student named Jeaine, includes artificial trees, decorating homes and shopping in malls. But it is still a family-oriented holiday celebrated at home.

Osama, a student from Saudi Arabia, doesn't agree with Christmas and the American traditions seem strange. But because winter break is a time for students to come home, it is a time for families to be together.

Khalid, comes from the United Arab Emirates, a country that has a lot of foreigners. Although he doesn't celebrate Christmas, he grew up around all the western traditions. "I know everything about Christmas," Khalid said.

The most difficult aspect for international students is dealing with a holiday and traditions they don't understand.

"For those students who don't celebrate Christmas," Emery said, "There is a feeling of being left out."

Church groups often put together tours and host families for international students during the winter break. This gives them a chance to see the country and experience the holiday season.

Every holiday season, many shoppers will drop a few spare coins into a red Salvation Army kettle...

... and forget about it. After all, how much can a pile of pocket change amount to?

Quite a bit, according to David Lemen, divisional director of Community Relations and Development for the Salvation Army. He said \$817,000 was raised last year in Omaha, surpassing the \$800,000 goal.

Considering that the largest single contribution the Salvation Army receives is \$10,000, Lemen said, it's the small change that really adds up.

"We couldn't do this unless a lot of people got involved."

The Salvation Army's 1993 fundraising drive began on Nov. 19 with the Tree of Lights being set up on 17th

and Farnam Streets. The star on top of the tree will be lit when this year's goal is reached, Lemen said.

Also on Nov. 19, Salvation Army workers began appearing outside of community

businesses, ringing bells and collecting donations.

"The bell ringers are symbols of the fundraising effort," Lemen said.

Of all the money raised, 30 percent will be spent to make Christmas special for the needy in Omaha, Lemen said. The Salvation Army works with KMTV to distribute winter coats, and with KETV to donate books for Project Literacy, he said.

The Salvation Army also provides Christmas dinner for 2,800 needy families, along with toys and mittens for children, visits and gifts for 7,300 shut-ins and Christmas dinner for more than 1,000 senior citizens. Through the Salvation Army's three

party, the children receive a toy from Santa, a new outfit of clothes and dinner.

"We couldn't do all these things without volunteers," he said.

Currently, the Salvation Army in Omaha has about 1,800 volunteers which contribute about 30,000 volunteer hours this time of year.

"There's a lot of different ways volunteers help out," Lemen said. Anyone can get involved by calling Gayla Baker at 554-5900.

The remaining 70 percent of donations goes to support the Salvation Army's various projects throughout the rest of the year, Lemen said.

In 1990, Methodist Hospital donated the Renaissance Center at 38th and Cuming Streets to the Salvation Army, enabling the charity to initiate 11 new pro-

neighborhood centers, toys, treats and gifts are given to more than 10,000 children and their families, Lemen said.

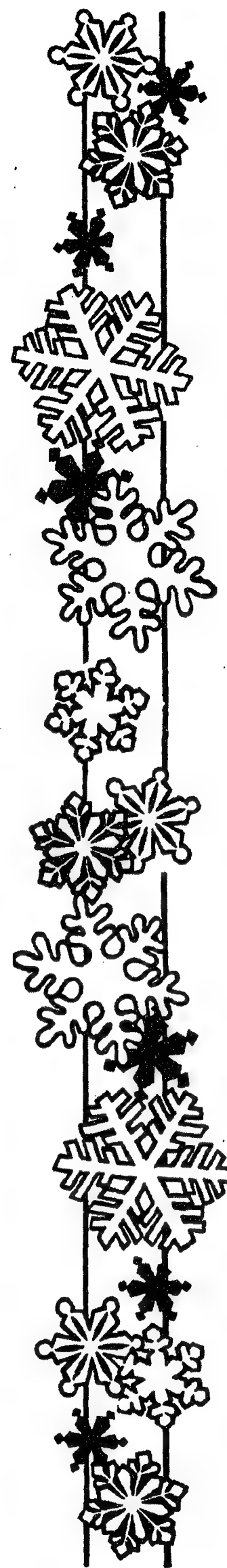
A special Christmas party is given for 30 of the neediest kids, Lemen said. At the

grams, Lemen said.

"An opportunity to serve more people better was given to the Salvation Army," he said, "and the Army has made it work, thanks to the support of a lot of people."

"We couldn't do this unless a lot of people got involved."

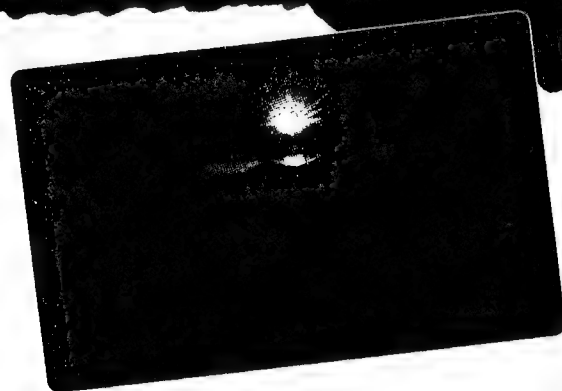
**—David Lemen
Salvation Army**




*By Susan
McElligott*

FACE IT, TRICKLE DOWN ECONOMICS IS ALL DRIED UP.

THESE DAYS YOU NEED ALL THE HELP YOU CAN GET.
THAT'S WHY WE OFFER A \$1,000 CREDIT LINE
AND NO ANNUAL FEE. THERE, THAT
OUGHT TO INCREASE YOUR CASH FLOW.



IF YOU DON'T GOT IT,
GET IT.SM

MEMBER  NETWORK ©1993 GREENWOOD TRUST COMPANY, MEMBER FDIC

With the holidays nearing, windows display beautiful winter wonderland sceneries...

*By
Doraine A.
Hooks*

Christmas trees await Santa's gifts, and kitchens smell of cookies, cakes and other holiday treats.

Warm, cozy fireplaces crackle, and Nat King Cole can be heard wishing those between the ages of 1 and 92 a Merry Christmas.

The shopping, the parties and the feelings of good will usually enhance the holiday season. It's a time of giving and sharing with family members and loved ones.

But the holiday spirit doesn't automatically bring good cheer for everyone. Sometimes colorful, sparkling lights only assist in deepening feelings of dread, loneliness and stress.

"People are usually happy this time of year," said Joseph LaVoie, a UNO psychology professor, "but it might be difficult for some people who may not have a lot of money or are alone this time of year."

Seasonal depression can strike days, weeks or even months before the holiday season. The tasks of decorating trees, making cookies, writing out cards and shopping for gifts often seem overwhelming.

"It's funny how all this gets cramped into one month," said Anne Marie Aita, a community mental health educator who spoke to a group at the Eppley Administration Building on Wednesday.

Aita said the holiday blues can occur if people have an overabundance of tasks they feel they must do, or if a loved one who

normally shares in the festivities is absent.

The blatant physical evidence of Christmas is everywhere, in stores, in the streets and on television. The sheer visibility of the holiday makes it impossible to ignore and even to forget holidays long past.

And if reflecting on Christmases brings reminders of tragedy, feelings of loneliness and depression may arise, Aita said. These feelings are more serious than simple holiday blues, and the stress level increases.

"The Christmas season is the time of year when the suicide and suicide attempt rate goes up," Aita said.

LaVoie said a suicide attempt is often a plea for help, and he suggests seeking professional help or at least talking to someone trustworthy about these feelings. LaVoie named Midlands and St. Joseph Hospitals as just a few of the programs available in the Omaha area.

There are also programs at UNO which provide assistance and referrals such as Student Counseling. Aita suggested the Interfaith Counseling Center as another source for help.

Hopefully, people can try to relieve stress before it reaches a serious point. Aita presented these tips from the Mental Health Services in the Mercy Center in Council Bluffs as steps toward easing holiday stress:

- Plan and prioritize your work and time — make a list.
- Take a break, now matter how short.
- Be realistic — don't overspend, set practical goals.
- Exercise regularly — it will help let off steam and stress.

- Talk it over — don't keep problems bottled up, discuss them with a trusted friend.

- Learn to relax — start with a few minutes of peace and quiet.

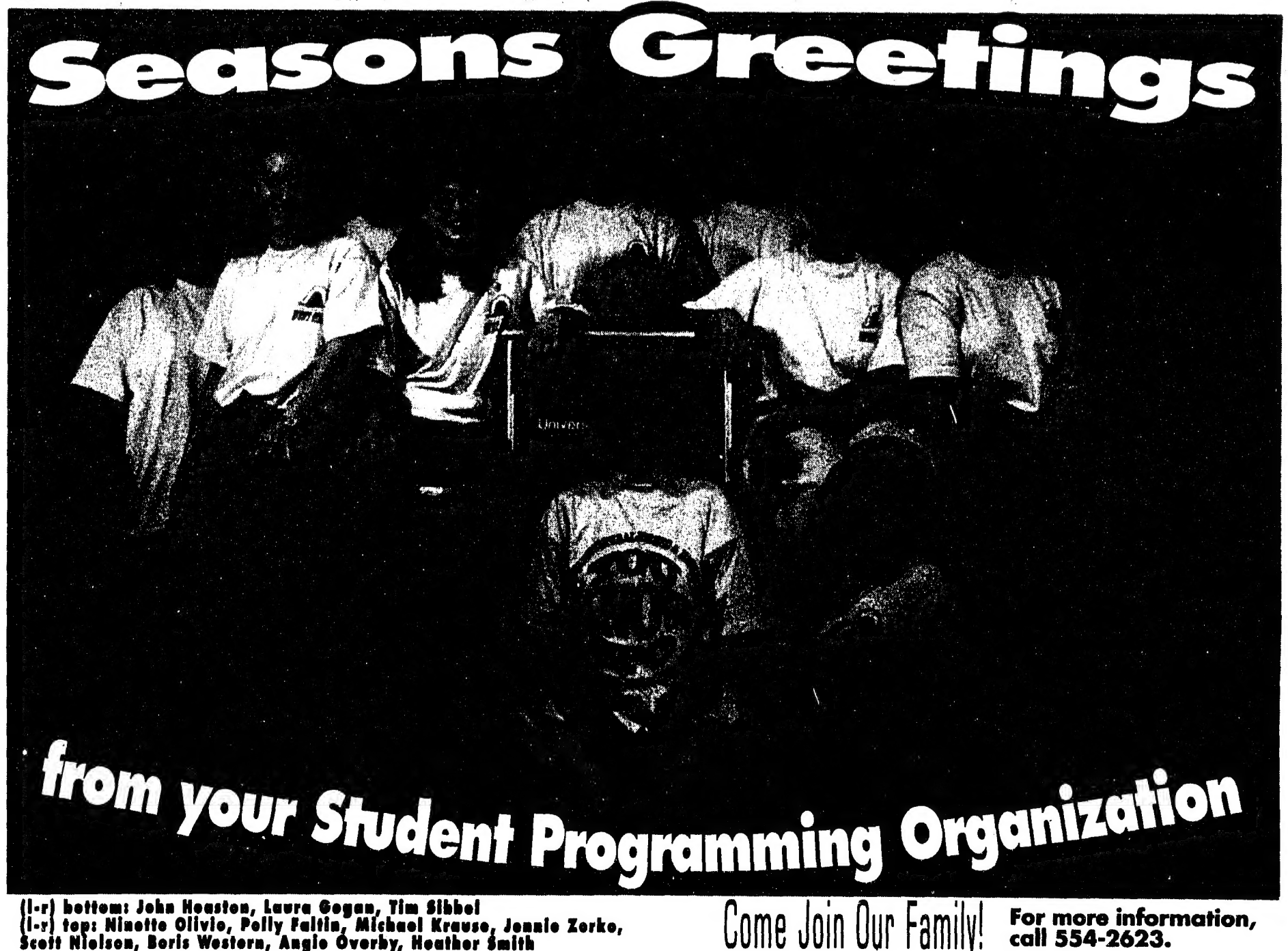
Even with the hustle and bustle of the season, the holidays can be peaceful and pleasant if people try to stay organized and not overspend.

Helping the needy and sharing traditional tasks with others will also relieve much of the stress.

Signs of Depression

- Loss of interest and pleasure.
- Appetite disturbance.
- Sleep disturbance.
- Psychomotor agitation or retardation.
- Decrease in energy level.
- Sense of worthlessness.
- Difficulty in concentrating.
- Thoughts about death.

From *Psychology: The Study of Human Experience*, by Robert Ornstein.



Seasons Greetings

from your Student Programming Organization

(l-r) bottom: John Houston, Laura Gogan, Tim Sibbel
(l-r) top: Ninette Olivio, Polly Faltin, Michael Krause, Jennie Zerko, Scott Nielson, Boris Western, Angie Overby, Heather Smith

Come Join Our Family! For more information, call 554-2623.

Deck the halls — with a plastic substance?

By Heidi
Hermanson

About 70 percent of people still prefer putting up a real tree, said Jim Hurt, manager of a West Omaha Earl May company. But the number of artificial trees purchased each year is growing steadily, he said.

Cost is one reason, he said. "In the long run, an artificial tree is a lot cheaper," he said. "A seven-foot fir tree can run you up to \$60. A seven-foot artificial tree might be \$130, but it will pay for itself in three or four years," he said.

Safety and convenience are other reasons people aren't buying the real thing, said Kim Peterson, manager of the Council Bluffs Earl May company.

Artificial trees are easier to maintain than real trees. They don't dry out, and therefore are less of a fire hazard, Peterson said. Since they don't have a strong scent, people with allergies can enjoy them too, he said.

"You don't have to go pick one out every year, and the tree looks the same every year," he said.

Artificial trees are looking better too, Peterson said. They are still made of flame retardant plastic, but they are put together better and they last longer.

"Our trees have a 10-year warranty, but some of our customers have had the same tree for 15 years."

However, none of these "benefits" are convincing to Ed Schaeffer, owner of Bellevue Berry Farm. Ed, who sells locally grown Christmas trees every year, maintains that fresh is best.

"There are a lot of artificial things in this world," Schaeffer said. "I'd rather

have the natural."

Then there's that delectable pine scent.

"That sets the whole atmosphere of Christmas as far as I'm concerned," Schaeffer said.

The real trees are good for a long time, and of course, they are recyclable, he added.

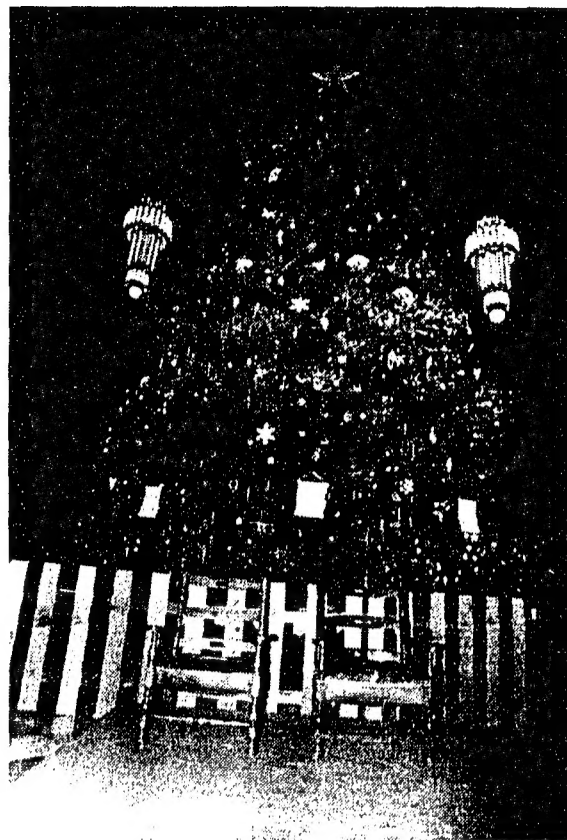
"Most cities have a place to take the trees after Christmas," he said. "They chip them into small pieces which can be used in various ways—like on a path in a park."

Buying real trees helps the local economy, too. Christmas trees grow well on "marginal" land, land that is too steep to sustain anything else.

"It's a good income for small farmers," Schaeffer said.

Even trees that are not picture-perfect can be put to good use, Schaeffer said.

"I can get four good sized wreaths out of a small pine tree."



—Ed Carlson

It's Real

The Western Heritage Museum's Christmas tree is not made of a plastic substance. The large tree is very real.

Take Home A Bakery Basket Instead of a Laundry Basket

This holiday season, surprise your family with a delicious holiday bakery basket from Perkins® Family Restaurant & Bakery. We fill each festive basket with a dozen fresh-baked mini muffins, cookies, cinnamon rolls and brownies.

Stop by or phone in your order and we'll have it ready when you want it. We're open 24 hours a day to serve you.

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Happy Holidays from your friends at Perkins!



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Get a haircut for \$12 (style extra) and 1 free tan with coupon

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Delivering joy to thousands of little boys and girls every Tuesday and Friday.

What is the one sure way to know that the holiday season is here?

Column by
Jim Minge

The lint balls in your belly button begin accumulating at a faster pace than normal.

That's right, it's gift-giving time again, and that means the lint ball elves will be busy knitting blankets, mittens, scarves and other articles of clothing out of lint balls found in the "inney" belly buttons of humans.

I have long been a believer in the existence of lint ball elves. In March of 1993, I wrote a column discussing my theory of the lint ball elf. The theory asserts that microscopic elves, who roam the bodies of people with "inney" belly buttons and carry tiny bags of colorful lint balls on their backs, periodically find their way into the miniature belly button caverns, and leave lint balls.

Later, we discover the interesting little balls of fuzz and wonder how the heck they got there.

But the excitement doesn't stop here.

When December rolls around, I notice an increase in the size of the lint balls that I find in my belly button. After years of research, I have come up with yet another lint ball theory.

In order to give validity to my theory I called on the expertise of Dr. Epur Libltush (you do the jumble), a member of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's highly regarded Human Bacteria Research Department.

Prior to our meeting, I faxed Dr. Libltush a copy of my lint ball elf editorial so he could have an idea of what I wanted to discuss with him. As you might suspect, Dr. Libltush attempted to shatter my theory of the belly button lint ball elves from the get-go.

"You realize that the lint balls which end up in our belly buttons come from our clothing, don't you?" he said.

"If that's true, then why do I sometimes find a purple lint ball in my belly button when I do not own a single piece of purple clothing?"

"Good point."

"Scientifically, the lint ball elves could

exist, right?"

"Well, here at our human bacteria labs we study many forms of microscopic bacteria that crawl along the surface of human skin, such as Staphylococcus epidermidis and the Corynebacterium, which stimulate our immune system. However, this is the first time I have ever heard of the belly button lint ball elf theory. They would have to be very evolved bacterium to accomplish what you say they can."

"If you will indulge me for a moment, Dr. Libltush, I would like to propose another theory regarding human bacteria. I've been tracking the evolution of these lint ball elves for several years now, and I always notice an increase in the size of the lint balls that I find in my belly button around Christmas time. Could it be possible that there exists on the human body, bacteria that are so highly developed that they celebrate Christmas?"

"WHAT?!"

"As I said, the size of the lint balls increase."

"What's that have to do with Christmas?"

"Well, during the Christmas season, you will notice that a lint ball in your belly button grows in size during the course of a given day. Could it be that there are lint ball elves knitting the lint balls together to make little lint jackets, hats, gloves, etc. for Christmas presents for their much larger arthropod cousins?"

That one seemed to stump Dr. Libltush. Like the good scientist he is, Dr. Libltush fed me a mouth full of inconclusive answers and sent me on my pondering way.

Since there is no scientific evidence that the belly button lint ball elves actually exist, no one knows for sure where the colorful lint balls come from. It's like Chicken McNuggets — you know their good, you just don't know where they came from.

And yet, as the Christmas spirit gets the best of me, I can't help but think that even microscopic bacteria celebrate Christmas. The holiday gift-giving cheer is hard to avoid, even for bacteria.

Of the UNO
students taking
part in a 1993
survey...

... 44.4 percent reported driving drunk at least once in the last year.

This report comes from LIFT-UP II, which sponsored, "Tis the Season to be Tipsy," a presentation on drug and alcohol abuse.

Local law enforcement officials and members of the Panhellenic Council took part in the seminar Wednesday at the UNO Alumni House.

The goal was to educate students on the dangers of drug and alcohol consumption and their effects on driving.

Volunteers from the council consumed various amounts of alcohol. The volunteers were then given a series of tests that police use on drivers suspected of driving under the influence (DUI).

One demonstration was the "walk and turn" test. The driver is told to walk, heel to toe, nine steps, turn and repeat the process.

Surprisingly enough, after having consumed various amounts of beer within an hour, all of the participants passed the tests.

A male student who consumed five and a half beers was given a

SEE TIPSY, PAGE 12

By
Jodi Boone

CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTICES

Advertising will be rejected that discriminates based on age, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, disability or marital status.

Lost & Found

FOR ITEMS LOST AT UNO. Contact Campus Security, EAB 100, 554-3648. Turned-in items can be claimed by a description and proper identification.

ADOPTION

ADOPTION-A CAREER ALTERNATIVE
Plan the best future for you and your baby. No fee/confidential counseling. Ask for Karen or Deb. Nebraska Children's Home 3549 Fontenelle Blvd. 451-0787

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No appt. needed
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

EOPA Scholarship: A \$300 scholarship is available for students in Business Education, Administrative Office Management or studies for secretarial or office support vocations. Applicants are also eligible for the state and national scholarship through EOPA. Applications are available at the College of Education, KH 330, and the Office of Financial Aid, EAB 103. The application deadline is January 14, 1994.

GROUPS & ORGANIZATIONS

Aviation Institute
Offering both a major and minor in Aviation. For more information call 554-3424, or stop by 422 Albion Hall.

You are invited to learn to speak more effectively. Toastmasters meets 2nd & 4th Wednesdays at 11 a.m. in Rm. 304 DSC. For more info, 554-3648.

HELP WANTED

Mother's helper
Home-Eo major preferred. Flexible hours, days or evenings, variety of duties. Call 339-7871.

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CRUISE SHIPS HIRING: Earn up to \$2,000+/mo. on Cruise Ships or Land-Tour companies. World travel. Summer & Full-Time employment available. No exp. necessary. For info, call 1-206-634-0468 ext. C5777.

INTERNATIONAL EMPLOYMENT: Make up to \$2,000-\$4,000+/mo. teaching basic conversational English abroad. Japan, Taiwan, and S. Korea. Many employers provide room & board + other benefits. No teaching background or Asian languages required. For more information call: (206)632-1146 ext. J5777.

Hiring for the following positions: dispatchers & drivers. Local food delivery service. Hours are flexible with good pay. Call 333-9393 for more info.

S. O. S.

Super opportunity for students. Earn an excellent income in the hours that you choose. Freedom, flexibility, funds, and fun! Call 492-9958!

SPRING BREAK '94: Jamaica & Cancun from \$419, Daytona & Panama City Beach from \$129. ORGANIZE A GROUP AND TRAVEL FREE!!! CALL STS @ 800-648-4849.

Now hiring part-time bartenders & wait staff. Apply in person. Dooley's, 29th & Farnam.

Receptionist/billing clerk needed at the Gateway. Duties include handling classified ads, billing, and various other duties. Knowledge of Macintosh a must, prefer knowledge of PageMaker and AtOne also. 20 hours a week, \$5-\$6/hr. depending on experience. Fill out an application at the Gateway, Annex 26 or call 554-2470 for more info.

WANTED

NEWLY DATING COUPLE NEEDED FOR NETWORK TV SHOW.

If you are willing to be open about your relationship and have not had sex with each other (yet) call 800-258-7408.

Creighton University is seeking women of Southeast Asian descent age 19-35 to participate in a research study testing the absorption of calcium in a dry milk preparation marketed in Southeast Asia. Requires commitment to four Monday mornings (1/24, 2/21, 3/21, 4/18). Will eat standardized breakfast at research site and have blood drawn five hours later. \$200 stipend. Call Dr. Susan Dowell (280-4847) before Christmas break. Thank you.

FOR SALE

72 MGB Convertible-Brit. Racing Green. Great body, no rust. New clutch, brakes. \$2,000/best offer. 895-6350.

HOUSING

APTS., HOUSES and sleeping rms. for rent, roommates lists - call UNO Housing Referral Service 554-2383, or stop in the Admin. Office, Milo Ball Student Center.

SERVICES

TANNING
How 'bout a tan for the holidays or a head-start on spring break preparation. Grand opening special! Call today, 391-4588.

WORD PROCESSING: \$1.85/DEL. SP. PG. Laser printing and spell checking. Resumes, too. West Omaha, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Accutype 334-2334.

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ARTWAY (m) 393-5916.

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Typing-\$1.75 per double-spaced page. APA specialists. Laser printer. West Dodge location. Lloyd's, 334-2264.

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Key Strokes Typing Service.
\$4 Student Discount.

FROM TIPS, PAGE 11

breathalyzer and determined to have a blood alcohol level of .03, well under .10, the illegal determinant.

A female student who drank four and a half beers passed the breathalyzer with a .07 blood alcohol level.

The largest amount (10 beers) was consumed by a male student. His blood alcohol level was .09, still passing the test.

These results may be misleading, however.

The amount of alcohol may not show up on various tests shortly after consumption, but the same amount of alcohol may register at a higher level minutes later.

The law enforcement officials

checked the students again a half an hour later. The male who registered at .03 the first time around showed a level of .11 by the time of the second test.

The reason for this fluctuation, the officials said, was that during that half hour, the alcohol already present in the body was absorbed into the bloodstream.

Besides demonstrating sobriety tests, the officials also fielded questions from the audience.

Red ribbons were handed out for awareness of drug and alcohol abuse. Also given to the audience were candy canes and pencils, markers and key chains that read, "Be a good neighbor. Be a designated driver."

Holiday Happenings in Omaha

On the first and third Sundays of every month, a Currier & Ives collection will be displayed at ConAgra from 2 p.m. until 4 p.m. Admission is free. For information, call 595-4155.

Christmas and vocal jazz arrangements. Cost is \$15 for the show only and \$22 for the show and dinner. Call 558-8535 for information or reservations.

The Dundee Dinner Theatre will present "Hit the Road to Dreamland" on Dec. 13 and 14 at 8 p.m. and Dec. 19-21 at 7 p.m. "Hit the Road to Dreamland" is an original revue featuring a medley of dreamsongs, a celebration of

The Omaha Symphony SugarPops Series is performing "Magic of Christmas" on Dec. 1-5 at the Orpheum Theater. The performance includes Christmas melodies complete with choirs, carols and an old-fashioned sing-along. Call 342-3560 for information.

IMPORTANT REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The following courses are *guaranteed to be open and have no pre-requisites*. They can be used as open electives or fulfill requirements for the aviation minor.

Introduction to Aviation: 3 CR

This course is designed to provide students with a broad overview of the many aspects of aviation and aerospace. Three sections will be offered.

0299 AVN 1000 - 001	TR 10:00 - 11:15
5829 AVN 1000 - 002	MW 2:00 - 3:15
0301 AVN 1000 - 003	W 5:30 - 8:15

History of Aviation: 3CR

A historical perspective of the development of aviation is presented. Two sections are offered.

0309 AVN 1040 - 001	TR 1:00 - 2:15
5837 AVN 1040 - 002	M 5:30 - 8:15

See Page 72 of the UNO Spring Schedule for more course information or contact the Aviation Institute at 554-3424.

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Where the "non-traditional" student is the "traditional" student.

Where age, sex, religion, nationality, and culture are as diverse as individual class schedules.

The Milo Bail Student Center would like to remind everyone of the following holidays and wish everyone...

Happy Holidays!

Feast of the Immaculate Conception...
December 8

Chanukah...
December 9-16

Human Rights Day...
December 10

Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe...
December 12

Christmas...December 25

Kwanzaa...December 26

New Year's Day...January 1

Feast of the Epiphany...January 6

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday...January 17

Milo Bail Student Center

A Division of Educational and Student Services